

HIST 534: Modern Irish History

Wednesdays, 6:10-8:40pm, Pangborn 204

Catholic University of America

Spring 2010

Prof. Nicholas Wolf

Introduction

This course is designed to give students a strong grasp of the key developments in Ireland's cultural, political, and economic history between the 1798 Rebellion and the foundation of the Irish Free State. This period represents one of the most eventful and contentious years in Irish history: after the threatened French invasion and widespread uprising of 1798, Ireland and Britain concluded a legislative union in an attempt to more closely integrate the two states and provide for a more lasting and peaceful situation in Ireland itself. Yet subsequent decades proved to be far from settled as Catholic Emancipation, nationalism, famine, and the stirrings of Home Rule proved highly contentious on both sides of the Irish Sea.

Texts and Readings

Three texts from this course will be available for purchase:

**T.W. Moody & F.X. Martin, *The Course of Irish History* 4th ed. (2001)

Cormac Ó Gráda, *Black '47 and Beyond* (2000)

Peter Hart, *The I.R.A. & Its Enemies* (1998)

All remaining readings will be made available for students either via **course reserve**, or by the course website:

<http://hist534cua.weebly.com>

**The Moody & Martin text is designed to give students a narrative framework for topics covered in the course, whereas the readings assigned below must be prepared in time for in-class discussion. It is recommended that those who have not taken an Irish history course or who need further background obtain this book. Otherwise, it is optional.

In addition, some weeks include a choice between an Irish-language and an English-language selection. Students comfortable with their abilities in Irish are highly encouraged to incorporate these texts into their reading.

Course Requirements

The course assignments will consist of:

- Two review papers of 4-5 pages each devoted to discussing the debates or topics sparked by the historical writings presented in the course.
- A longer research paper on a topic relevant to the student's broader work or interests will be due at the end of the semester. This paper should seek to integrate a topic of Irish cultural significance into a wider context. For MA students, this paper should be 18-20 pages in length; BA students should aim for 14-16.
- Each week two students will be charged with taking the lead for seminar by preparing discussion questions for distribution the day of the our meeting. During class, these students will also serve as discussion leaders. This additional preparation will count toward broader participation.

Final grades will be based on the review papers (20% each, or 40%), participation (20%), and research paper (40%).

Website

A website dedicated to this course can be found at <http://hist534cua.weebly.com> Key information for the course, including handouts, readings, and assignments can be found there.

Schedule

Week 1 (Jan. 13th): Introduction

Week 2 (Jan. 20th): Agrarian Violence, Secret Societies, and Rural Solidarity

Michael Beames, *Peasant and Power: The Whiteboy Movement and Their Control in Pre-Famine Ireland* (1983), pp. 21-110

Paul E.W. Roberts, “Caravats and Shanavests: Whiteboyism and Faction Fighting in East Munster, 1802-1811” in *Irish Peasants: Violence and Political Unrest, 1780-1914*, ed. Samuel Clark and James S. Donnelly (1983), pp. 64-101

Week 3 (Jan. 27th): Republicanism, Ideology, and Gender

Kevin Whelan, *The Tree of Liberty: Radicalism, Catholicism and the Construction of Irish Identity, 1760-1830* (1996), pp. 59-130

Nancy Curtin, “‘A Nation of Abortive Men’: Gendered Citizenship and Early Irish Republicanism,” in *Reclaiming Gender: Transgressive Identities in Modern Ireland*, ed. Marilyn Cohen and Nancy Curtin (1999), pp. 33-52

Week 4 (Feb. 3rd): O’Connell, Mass Politics, and the “Monster Meetings”

Thomas Bartlett, *The Fall and Rise of the Irish Nation: The Catholic Question 1690-1830* (1992), pp. 304-342

OPTION—Choose one of the following:

Gary Owens, “Nationalism without Words: Symbolism and Ritual Behaviour in the Repeal ‘Monster Meetings’ of 1843-5” in Donnelly and Miller, eds., *Irish Popular Culture 1650-1850* (1999): 242-69

Caoimhín Ó Danachair, “Dónall Ó Conaill i mBéalaibh na nDaoine” *Studia Hibernica* 14 (1974): 40-66 [in Irish]

Week 5 (Feb. 10th): The Great Famine

Comac Ó Gráda, *Black '47 and Beyond* (2000)

Niall Ó Ciosáin, “Was There Silence About the Great Famine?” *Irish Studies Review* 13 (1996): 7-10

Week 6 (Feb. 17th): The Devotional Revolution and Beyond—Irish Catholicism and Change

Emmet Larkin “The Devotional Revolution in Ireland, 1850-1875” *American Historical Review* 77:3 (1972): 625-652

Larry Taylor *Occasions of Faith: An Anthropology of Irish Catholics* (1995), pp. 145-89

James S. Donnelly, "Lough Derg: the Making of the Modern Pilgrimage" in *Donegal: History and Society: Interdisciplinary Essays on the History of an Irish County*, ed. William Nolan, et al. (1995), pp. 491-507

First Review Paper Due Feb. 17th (by e-mail attachment)

Week 7 (Feb. 24th): The Irish Language in an English-Speaking Ireland, Urban and Rural

Máirtín Ó Murchú, "The Retreat from Irish: the Statistical Analysis and Other Aspects" in *Ireland in the Contemporary World: Essays in Honour of Garret Fitzgerald* (1986), pp. 112-21

Fionntán de Brún, "The Fadgies: an 'Irish-Speaking Colony' in Nineteenth-Century Belfast" in *Belfast and the Irish Language*, ed. Fionntán de Brún (2006), pp. 101-113

Joseph Lee, *Ireland 1912-1985* (1989), pp. 662-74

OPTION—Choose one of the following:

Seán De Fréine "An Gorta agus an Ghaeilge" in *Gnéithe den Ghorta*, ed. Cathal Póirtéir (1995), pp. 55-68 [in Irish]

R.A. Houston "'Minority' Languages and Cultural Change" in *Explaining Change in Cultural History*, ed. Niall Ó Ciosáin (2005), pp. 13-36

Week 8 (March 3rd): The Irish Abroad

Kevin Kenny, "The Irish in the Empire," in *Ireland and the British Empire* (2004), pp. 90-122

Nini Rodgers, "The Irish in the Caribbean, 1641-1837: An Overview" *Irish Migration Studies in Latin America* 5 (2007), pp. 145-56

Edmundo Murray, "The Irish Road to South America: Nineteenth-Century Travel Patterns from Ireland to the River Plate" *Irish Migration Studies in Latin America* 1 (2003), pp. 28-44

Donald Akenson, "The Historiography of the Irish in the United States" in *The Irish World Wide*, vol. 2, ed. Patrick O'Sullivan (1992), pp. 99-127

Week 9 (March 10th): **SPRING RECESS**

Week 10 (March 17th): Local and Popular Politics—and their Alternative Forms

K. Theodore Hoppen, *Elections, Politics, and Society in Ireland, 1832-1885* (1984) pp. 1-88, 359-485

Pauric Travers, "A Bloodless Revolution: The Democratization of Irish Local Government, 1898-99," in *Country and Town*, ed. Mary Daly (2001), pp. 12-23

Virginia Crossman, "The New Ross Workhouse Riot of 1887: Nationalism, Class, and

the Irish Poor Laws” *Past and Present* 179 (2003), pp. 135-158

Week 11 (March 24th): Labor and Gender

Joanna Bourke. *Husbandry to Housewifery: Women, Economic Change, and Housework in Ireland, 1890-1914* (1993), pp. 1-53

Maria Luddy, “Women and Work in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Ireland,” in Bernadette Whelan, eds., *Women and Paid Work in Ireland, 1500-1930* (2000), 48-56

Week 12 (March 31st): The Irish as Subject of Observation

Perry Curtis. *Apes and Angels: The Irishman in Victorian Caricature*. Rev. ed., (1997), pp. 1-57

Michael de Nie. *The Eternal Paddy: Irish Identity and the British Press, 1798-1882* (2004), pp. 1-35

Second Review Paper Due March 31st (by e-mail attachment)

Week 13 (April 7th): Urban Ireland

Jacinta Prunty, *Dublin Slums, 1800-1925* (1998), pp. 274-335

Mary Daly, *Dublin, the Deposed Capital: A Social and Economic History, 1860-1914* (1984), pp. 1-19

Catherine Hirst “Politics, sectarianism and the working class in nineteenth century Belfast” in Donal Ó Drisceoil, et al. ed., *Politics and the Irish Working Class, 1830-1945* (2005), 62-86

Week 14 (April 14th): Irish Unionism and its Varieties

Alvin Jackson, “Irish Unionism, 1870-1922” in Boyce and O’Day, eds., *Defenders of the Union* (2001): 115-36

David George Boyce, “Edward Carson (1854-1935) and Irish Unionism,” in Ciarán Brady, ed., *Worsted in the Game* (1989): 145-57

Week 15 (April 21st): Radical Republicanism and the Transformation of Irish Politics

Peter Hart, *The I.R.A. & Its Enemies: Violence and Community in Cork, 1916-1923* (1998)

Week 16 (April 28th): Civil War and the Birth of Northern Ireland

Thomas Hennessey, *A History of Northern Ireland* (1997), 1-55

Patrick Buckland, “A Protestant State: Unionists in Government, 1921-39” in Boyce and O’Day, eds., *Defenders of the Union* (2001): 211-26

Research Paper Due May 4th (by e-mail attachment)